SRI K. R. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Government have withheld payment of any grant or permission to any local body for constructing school building, and if so, whether they are going to revise their policy? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Government have not changed their policy in the matter of providing funds for the construction of school buildings."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that allotment of grant was made in previous years to the Madakasira Board High School and tenders were called for by the district board? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. The district board is free to draw the money when it pleases."

Alleged lathi charge by the police at Tuticorin.

* 283-A *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was a lathi charge by police on 25th March 1953 on the people at Tuticorin; if so, why; and how many persons got injuries?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, it is not true that there was a lathi charge at Tuticorin on the 25th March 1953."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have instituted any enquiry into the circumstances leading to the lathi charge and the conduct of the officers who ordered the lathi charge? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The answer is that there was no lathi charge and this question does not therefore arise."

District Planning Board for Visakhapatnam district.

* 284 *Q.*—SRI K. GOVINDA RAO : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a District Planning Board for Visakhapatnam district has been constituted;

(*b*) if so, with how many; and

(*c*) of them how many are non-officials?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) Nineteen members, including the Chairman and the Secretary.

" (*c*) Five."

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the M.L.As. of the district are included in the Planning Board? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, as I said there are nineteen members in the District Planning Board.

The Board has to co-ordinate the activities of all officials dealing with various departments, like the District Collector, Executive Engineers, etc. There are five non-officials in the Board, viz., Chairmen of the Municipal Councils, and the President, District Board. So it is not possible to make it larger. But M.L.As. will certainly be entitled to be present and to take part. The Board has already nineteen members and it is no use making it larger."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" In view of the very important place that this District Planning Board naturally will have in the affairs of building up the district which is backward, would the Government consider taking full co-operation of the M.L.As. and giving them all the necessary materials that this District Planning Board members get and also taking their suggestions in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Most certainly, Sir, it will be done, especially in the particular case referred to. I was giving information practically about all the District Planning Boards and that the particular case was in line with that scheme. If any particular district M.L.As. want any information, they will certainly be given."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know, Sir, if the Government are prepared to include the district M.L.As. in these District Planning Boards and treat them as non-official members for all practical purposes? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I think, Sir, I have already answered the question if it is a question of ' practical purposes '. But if we go on enlarging the Board, it will become a white elephant."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" Sir, the Chief Minister said that the district M.L.As. are entitled to be present at the Board meetings. May I whether they will get any special invitation from the Chairman of the Board? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" What I meant to say was that if any M.L.As. of the districts wished to take part in the Board meetings, they would certainly be entitled to ask and do so. But no invitation will go each time. As I have already said, these Boards when too much enlarged, fail to do any work."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" May I know, Sir, when the Board was constituted? What was its scope and the work turned out by the Board? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" In G.O. No. 1495, dated 4th June 1952, orders were issued for the setting up of the District Planning Boards in the districts where community projects are not worked out."